WAR OF WORDS ERUPTS OVER ALIENS, PG 8

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Send this parent to the penalty box

HOCKEY A video posted on YouTube, and later removed, that shows 10-year-old hockey players in Humbolt, Sask., posing with cans and bottles of beer has resulted in the suspension of an assistant coach and a parent who acted as the team's treasurer. Lorrie Heggie of SaskCan hockey said the incident was a serious case of misjudgment. The video, filmed by the treasurer dad, shows the young boys being posed with the alcohol and being prompted to hold it up to the camera.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baseball

Jays bash A's

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Alex Gonzalez, left, celebrates with Vernon Wells after hitting a two-run home run against the Oakland Athletics yesterday at the Rogers Centre. Gonzalez hit his eighth homer of the season to tie Wells for the team lead and Toronto starting pitcher Shaun Marcum posted his first win since September 2008 as the Jays beat the A's 9-3. More coverage, page 18.

NYC bomb scare

Surveillance video shows man leaving scene in Times Square

Police investigating a terror attack that could have set off a deadly fireball in Times Square focused yesterday on finding a man who was videotaped near the SUV where the bomb was found.

Police said the gasoline-and-propane bomb was crude but could have sprayed shrapnel and metal parts with enough force to kill pedestrians and knock out windows on one of America's busiest streets on a Saturday night.

More than 45 kilograms of fertilizer rigged with wires and fireworks were found with the bomb, but police said it was not the ammonium nitrate grade that can explode.

The surveillance video shows an unidentified white man in his 40s slipping down an alley and taking off a shirt, revealing another underneath. In the same clip, he's seen looking back in the direction of the smoking vehicle and furtively putting the first shirt in a bag, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Falsely taking credit?

- A Pakistani Taliban group claimed responsibility for the failed attack in a one-minute video. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, however, said police have no evidence to support the claims, and noted the same group had falsely taken credit for previous attacks on U.S. soil.

TTC bucks the bad economy

RIDERSHIP It must be one of those love-hate relationships.

After months of complaints about surly, slack service on the TTC, it seems Torontonians are riding transit in record numbers and TTC management is already moving on the longstanding idea of installing station managers on the subway system.

The TTC is believed to be the only major transit system in North America bucking the bad economy. The riders it is attracting are off-peak users. Rush-hour ridership has actually dipped, along with employment.

"People are taking more off-peak trips, which suggests people are committing to a transit lifestyle," said TTC chair Adam Giambrone.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 4, 15

2%

Despite poor employment and a new year's fare increase that would normally cause ridership to drop, the TTC is expecting to deliver about two per cent more rides this year than the 462 million it had earlier projected. Transit officials are anticipating between 469 million and 474 million rides this year. Last year, there were about 471 million rides.

Local pg 3

Fallen officers remembered

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Local

Out of his tree

A man was hospitalized after falling out of a tree Saturday afternoon during a march to legalize marijuana at Queen's Park. The man was perched about 20 to 30 metres up the tree when he was spotted by people attending the rally. Thousands of people attended the 12th annual march Saturday. Organizers estimated the size of the peaceful rally at about 40,000 people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video A sky-high glass ceiling will be shattered this week when the Snowbirds get their first female commander at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Pot activists rally for legalization, but Ottawa may have very different plans at **metronews.ca/canada**

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HST, hydro hike hit pocket books

First phase of combined sales taxes comes as electricity rates rise nearly 10%

The introduction of the harmonized sales tax in two of Canada's largest provinces and a wave of other new expenses could take a toll just as Canadians begin to feel confident about opening their wallets again, experts say.

Shoppers in Ontario and British Columbia started paying the HST Saturday on a number of services — including theatre packages, airplane tickets and gym memberships — that will continue to be delivered after July 1, the day the HST will start to be broadly applied in both provinces.

The tax, which combines the five per cent federal sales tax with the provincial sales tax, has met with opposition from those who fear it will drive up the cost of services that were previously exempt from provincial sales tax.

It comes as electricity rates in Ontario rose almost 10 per cent effective Saturday and consumers across the country brace for higher mortgage rates and rising municipal taxes.

Kenneth Wong, a marketing professor at Queen's University, says the HST is supposed to benefit provincial economies by cutting costs for businesses, which are expected to pass the savings on to consumers, but the pain of the tax will be felt most directly at the individual level.

And many taxpayers in Ontario don't know if they'll receive "transition" cheques of up to $1,000 per family starting in June.

"I think consumers could have been told that what you may end up paying a little bit more for at the cash register will come back to you in lower income taxes and lower prices," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long-term confidence falling

- The rising costs come as Canadians appear to be growing wary of their future purchasing power, according to the Conference Board of Canada's consumer confidence index, which fell a surprising 7.8 points last month to 84.8, the lowest it's been since December.

Five fallen officers added to police memorial

CEREMONY Five more names were added yesterday to the granite wall that serves as the base for the Ontario Police Memorial on the grounds of the legislature in a solemn ceremony attended by hundreds of officers from across the province.

The five who died since last year's memorial for fallen police marked the largest single addition to the wall of honour in any one year, and raised the total number of names carved into the stone to 241.

"At last year's 10th annual ceremony, we were fortunate not to add any serving officers to our wall of honour," said James Christie, president of the Ontario Police Memorial Foundation.

"Our prayers in hoping that this rarity could be repeated this year were not realized."

OPP Const. Alan Hack, 31, died in July 2009 after he was involved in a car crash while responding to an incident in Elgin County.

Const. Eric Czapnik of the Ottawa Police Service, who didn't become a policeman until age 48, was stabbed to death outside an Ottawa hospital in January. He was 51 years old.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heather Pham, left, and sons Joshua, centre, and Tyler, right, and Jordan, not shown, take part in a memorial ceremony yesterday at Queen's Park in honour of families of Ontario police officers who died in the line of duty. OPP Const. Vu Pham died in the line of duty earlier this year.

OPP Const. Vu Pham was gunned down in March after pulling over a suspect in the Wingham area. He was 37 years old.

Const. James Ochakovsky, who was born in Moldova, died in February after his cruiser collided with another vehicle while he was going to assist a colleague. He was 36 years old.

RCMP Chief Supt. Douglas Coates died in the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January. Coates, 57, was a member of the UN peacekeeping mission in that country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taxpayers hit with city's mileage bills

BILLING Toronto is overpaying millions of taxpayer dollars to city officials for using their personal vehicles on the job.

Most city managers get 52 cents per kilometre — a rate at least 30 per cent higher than that enjoyed by provincial government staffers.

If you drive your car as part of your job with a company, chances are you get reimbursed 40 to 44 cents per kilometre. And some employers drop the rate to around 35 cents after your first 5,000 km of the year.

"It is money wasted and squandered," said Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong. "The city program is too generous ... we need to review it."

Minnan-Wong has made his concerns known to auditor general Jeff Griffiths, who has, as a first step, asked the city manager for an explanation.

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TTC workers, riders share gripes at forum

Misery loves company, and TTC riders and operators had busloads to share at a town hall meeting yesterday

"I'll report to work, and I'll be told there's no vehicle for me to take into service."
TTC bus driver Ron Ishmael

The meeting at Ryerson University was the last in a series organized by the TTC union after rider malaise transformed into outrage when a fare collector was photographed snoozing on the job a few months ago.

Like the previous meetings, little animosity could be found when the 200 transit users discovered that squeaky brakes, dirty bathrooms and crowded buses are also the bane of TTC operators.

"I'll report to work, and I'll be told there's no vehicle for me to take into service," bus driver Ron Ishmael told the crowd. "The person behind me will carry my passengers and his."

Eddie Braga, a streetcar driver, said he is expected to drive faster to make up for a lack of equipment.

The two-hour meeting was collegial, with CBC personality Barbara Budd drawing names out of a hat for the question period.

One rider asked for a reduction in fares and wondered if a free system was too much to ask for.

"If we had the subsidies they have in Europe we could have a free system," union head Bob Kinnear said.

When a rider complained about crackling speakers, bus driver Brian Howard agreed the announcements were pretty bad.

"I can't even understand what they're saying and I work there," he said.

On the topic of annoying noises, subway driver Janet Weller sympathized with a man who despised the loud subway brakes, saying she spent "12 hours a day" listening to them.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 15

Life imitates art as Queen West gentrifies

THEATRE After 16 years running a fruit stand at Queen Street West and Euclid Avenue, a Korean family is closing down because a new landlord wants a trendier business in the space. A bit further east, the owner of a vintage clothing shop is also packing up, her building set to be demolished and rebuilt as condos.

One of these women is real; the other is a character in a new play. Both stories illustrate how gentrification on Toronto's most artsy avenue still touches a raw nerve.

"When I found out I couldn't look my customers in the eye. I was almost crying," said Agatha Chung, the owner of Square Fruit Market at 684 Queen St. W., who runs the business with her husband, his brother and her sister-in-law.

"Some people come in every day," Chung said Friday, her eyes watery. "Some twice a day."

In March, the Chungs and staff at the shoe store next door, Heel Boy, received letters telling them that 682 and 684 Queen St. W. had a new owner — who wanted both out by June 30.

The vintage store owner is a fictional character, played by Lisa Marie DiLiberto in her six-character, one-woman play The Tale Of A Town — Queen West.

Running until May 16, the show begins when the audience is greeted outside Theatre Passe Muraille by DiLiberto's first character, a forthright condo developer. She takes the group on a stroll past the site of the 2008 fire and through Graffiti Alley between Queen and Richmond, touting the new Loblaws going in at Portland Street. Next, in a loft space, the audience meets the vintage store owner, boxing up her goods. In a later scene, live musicians will play at the nearby Cameron House.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Actress Lisa Marie DiLiberto stars in a new play, The Tale Of A Town — Queen West, which draws parallels to the gentrification currently changing the makeup of Queen Street West.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Pantalone urged to take up Transit City fight

TRANSIT Ontario's Transit City slowdown has prompted Mayor David Miller to record a protest message. But where is deputy mayor Joe Pantalone, the one mayoral candidate who has said Ontario must honour its commitment to the light rail network?

Pantalone says he raises the issue everywhere he goes, but, for now, he's content to see Miller take the lead on the issue with moves such as a recorded message played in subway stations, urging riders to complain to Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Sometime between now and voting day, Oct. 25, Miller's presence will fade. At that point, Pantalone expects to become the defender of the multibillion-dollar transit plan.

He just can't say when that will be. "It's a hard question to answer. It's a grey area."

Advocates say Transit City could be a defining issue for Pantalone, just as Miller's opposition to island airport expansion helped propel him into the mayor's chair in 2003.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Ontario wrong place for Black suit: Defence

The Internet is not a "no man's land" when it comes to libel, lawyers for Conrad Black say in arguing that six libel lawsuits should proceed in Ontario, where he established his reputation and should be vindicated from statements about his use of Hollinger shareholder money.

Conrad Black

Lawyers for the media baron turned convicted felon will be in the Ontario Appeal Court today for a hearing on an appeal from the libel action's defendants.

Black is attempting to sue members of a special committee of Hollinger International over statements published on the Sun-Times Media Inc. website.

Court documents cite in particular a 2004 report from the committee, authored by Richard Breeden, that said the company was a "corporate kleptocracy" while Black was the CEO, that Black "freely used the company's coffers, financed by its public shareholders, to finance (his) own lifestyle," and that Black had "looted" the newspaper publisher of at least $300 million.

While Black is serving a 6½-year sentence in a Florida prison for obstruction of justice and three counts of fraud, his lawyers note the allegedly libellous statements "go far beyond the matters for which the respondent was ultimately charged and convicted."

The defendants asked a judge to stay the libel actions. The judge dismissed that request in March 2009 and they are now appealing that decision, saying the case should not be heard in Ontario, to which the matter has only "tenuous connections."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inquiry's timing 'unfair' to McCallion, lawyer claims

MISSISSAUGA Hazel McCallion's lawyer has warned the Mississauga judicial inquiry that making her testify just before the Oct. 25 election would be "unfair" to the longtime mayor.

Hazel McCallion

The inquiry into a controversial land deal involving McCallion's son — and tangentially the mayor herself — is already behind schedule, in part because it's taking a long time to get documents. There is speculation it could extend past Labour Day and the Sept. 10 deadline for nominations.

"It's fundamentally unfair, particularly for the mayor, to have the inquiry overlap that period," lawyer Elizabeth McIntyre said at a Friday hearing, representing the mayor, who has felt so secure in the seat McCallion has taken to going on vacation during the campaign period. She said having McCallion, 89, testify as one of the last witnesses could raise a lot of "smoke and dust" that could prove prejudicial.

Commission lawyer William McDowell took exception, saying criticism of delays was a bit "ironic" because the tardiness of document production by the mayor's office has been a big part of the delay.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MISSING There's renewed hope in the search for a Toronto woman who has been missing for 11 days. Elizabeth Chirwa, 22, was last seen the morning of April 20 in the city's north end. Police were patrolling the Eaton Centre and surrounding downtown streets Saturday, after Chirwa was spotted in the mall and the new City Hall parking garage on April 24. Police say it is believed Chirwa may be in the downtown core and possibly frequenting shopping centres. Chirwa is described as black, five-foot-three with a medium build and weighs about 140 pounds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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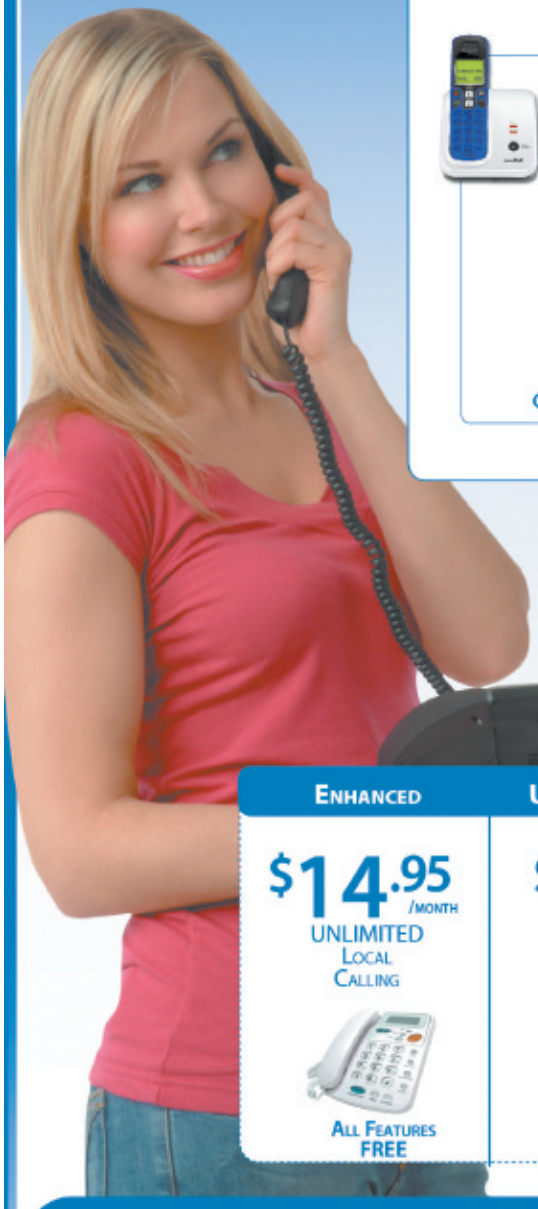

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Slain reporter named winner of Canadian World Press Freedom Award

Michelle Lang, a reporter who was killed on the job in Afghanistan, was named this year's winner of the Canadian World Press Freedom Award yesterday. Lang and four Canadian soldiers were killed last Dec. 30 when the armoured vehicle they were in struck a roadside bomb. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Campbell trying hand at comedy

Former prime minister Kim Campbell, left, will guest star on the VisionTV sitcom She's The Mayor. Campbell will make a seconds-long cameo in the upcoming comedy about a 60-something school principal who bumbles her way into the mayor's chair. She's The Mayor is expected to debut in early 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alien 'scary talk' panned

Ex-minister accuses Hawking of spreading misinformation

Stephen Hawking's warnings of an alien invasion have prompted a vigorous defence of extraterrestrials by their most prominent Canadian fan.

Former federal defence minister Paul Hellyer, 86, believes not only that aliens have visited Earth but also that they have contributed greatly to human technological advances.

Stephen Hawking

So he can't quite understand why the world-renowned astrophysicist views them with such trepidation; Hawking recently warned that malevolent aliens could lead to the destruction of humanity.

The longtime cabinet minister accuses Hawking of spreading misinformation about extraterrestrials.

"I think he's indulging in some pretty scary talk there that I would have hoped would not come from someone with such an established stature," Hellyer said in an interview.

Hawking speculates in a new documentary that most extraterrestrial life will be similar to microbes, or small animals — but he adds that advanced life forms may be "nomads, looking to conquer and colonize" new planets.

Hellyer has been speaking out publicly about "the star visitors" for years. His most recent speech was in Washington in April 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'The navy has come back to life'

UNIFORM After serving 43 years in the Canadian navy, including two tours during the Korean War, you wouldn't think someone like George Aucoin would be moved by something so insignificant as a small gold braid.

But you would be wrong.

"The navy has come back to life," Aucoin exclaimed yesterday after Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced he would reinstate the so-called executive curl on officers' uniforms to mark the navy's 100th anniversary in Canada.

The curl is a loop of braid that appears above an officer's rank insignia on their epaulettes and tunic sleeves. Its origins can be traced to the 1850s during the Crimean War, and it was adopted by the Royal Canadian Navy when it was formed in 1910-11.

But the curl was dropped when the branches of the Canadian Forces were unified in 1968.

Aucoin, a retired chief petty officer from Margaree Harbour, N.S., said that was a bad idea.

"Its significance is that it shows we have a navy," he said after MacKay spoke to a small crowd of sailors at Canadian Forces Base Halifax.

"It's hard for some of the new personnel to see the significance ... It was part of our identity. It will mean a great deal to us seeing it come back."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian navy is making a slight change to its officers' uniforms to mark 100 years of service. Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced yesterday that the navy will reinstate the use of the so-called executive curl.

Celebrations

- To commemorate the navy's centennial, there will be international fleet assemblies at naval bases in Victoria and Halifax, port visits by Canadian warships, and the unveiling today of a stamp series by Canada Post.

Home robbery leads to 5 arrests

CRIME Police in Brantford have arrested five people in connection with a home-invasion style robbery.

Two people were allegedly assaulted during the incident Saturday.

Police allege five people entered the home, where a woman was struck in the head and robbed. Police say they don't believe she was seriously injured.

A neighbour was also assaulted when he tried to come to the woman's aid, they said.

Four people from Brantford — three men and a woman — have been arrested, as well as a man from Six Nations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What does Kevin Newman's departure from Global mean for Canadian broadcasters?
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New N.B. casino ready to open

The newest attraction for gamblers in the Atlantic region is set to open tomorrow. Casino New Brunswick will open its doors in Moncton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ignatieff urges GG extension

Liberal leader backs Jean in unusual break from tradition

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is urging the prime minister to extend Michaëlle Jean's term as Governor General when her five-year appointment expires in September.

In an unusual break with the non-partisan tradition of all things governor general, Ignatieff issued a news release yesterday saying the Queen's Canadian secretary consulted him on a successor at Stephen Harper's request.

Jean has served her country with "distinction and honour" and deserves Canada's thanks, Ignatieff said.

"We just think somebody ought to get up and say: 'Bravo, Michaëlle Jean; you've done a great job for Canada and in our view it would be great if you continue,'" Ignatieff told reporters.

Within hours yesterday, the topic of Ignatieff's comments were becoming political fodder — just the sort of thing critics of his public declaration warned would happen.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michaëlle Jean

Robert Finch, dominion chair of the Monarchist League of Canada, said Ignatieff's "peculiar" public endorsement risks politicizing the appointment process and compromising the GG's independence.

Finch suggested such a move can start a slippery slope, whereby political parties ultimately line up behind one candidate or another.

"It risks (undermining) the whole non-partisan nature of the Crown," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big B.C. quake still long way away: Expert

WEST Major earthquakes in China, Mexico and Chile in recent weeks might have some British Columbians concerned they, too, are on shaky ground.

But experts say the spate of rumblings doesn't mean the province is going to be hit by the long-predicted "Big One" anytime soon.

The B.C. coast is located inside the most earthquake-prone region in Canada and the province records more than 1,200 quakes every year, though most of them are too weak to be felt.

The area sits near a major fault line, as well as the North American and Juan de Fuca tectonic plates. The plates are moving against each other and when the stress from that collision is finally released, the most powerful of earthquakes is expected.

But John Clague, an earth sciences professor at Simon Fraser University, says that megathrust could still be decades, if not centuries, away.

"We do know that these really large ones ... they occur here at our subduction zone about every 500 to 600 years," he said in an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.C. youth safe after hostage taking
A 12-year-old boy is safe after he was taken hostage during a robbery in the Vancouver area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The new top bird

Snowbirds to welcome first female boss

The first female boss of the renowned Snowbirds aerobatic team walks toward her CT-114 Tutor jet and laughingly glances at the rudder to make sure it hasn't been painted pink.

There have been rumours it might happen, jokes Lt.-Col. Maryse Carmichael.

But the rudder isn't pink. The only thing that distinguishes this jet from a dozen or so others lined up on the tarmac are the black letters on the tail, "CO," for commanding officer.

Carmichael will break a sky-high glass ceiling Thursday by officially taking command of the Snowbirds, becoming the first woman to lead the squadron in its 40-year history.

"It took a little bit of time for women to become pilots (because) it's one of the non-traditional roles, she told The Canadian Press in an interview at the base in Moose Jaw, Sask.

"Then to gain the experience required to be in command of a squadron takes ... many years."

Carmichael is modest about taking on the ground-breaking role. She notes that while it's a first for the Snowbirds, women have already led other squadrons in the Canadian Forces.

"I don't want to downplay it, it is a fact," she said of being the first. "But really, for me this posting is about the squadron.

"I was on the team a few years ago and I was the first woman to fly with the Snowbirds and that was really different. But now this posting is really about commanding this squadron and commanding the men and women that really represent the Canadian Forces across Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lt.-Col. Maryse Carmichael is set to officially become the first female boss of the Snowbirds aerobatic team Thursday.

Afghan future in question?

The future of the Afghan mission is quietly being shaped in the corridors and backrooms of Parliament Hill.

Here, some Conservatives and Liberals are having hushed talks about Canada's role in Afghanistan beyond next year, The Canadian Press has learned.

The overtures aren't formal. People interviewed for this story stressed the talks are more like feelers going out. But these chats could have profound implications on Canada's military and civilian functions in Afghanistan.

Tory Senator Hugh Segal said several top Liberals have approached him recently about Afghanistan.

"I've had at least two or three senior people (from) the Liberal party say that they are more than open-minded to a discussion about a military training presence," he said.

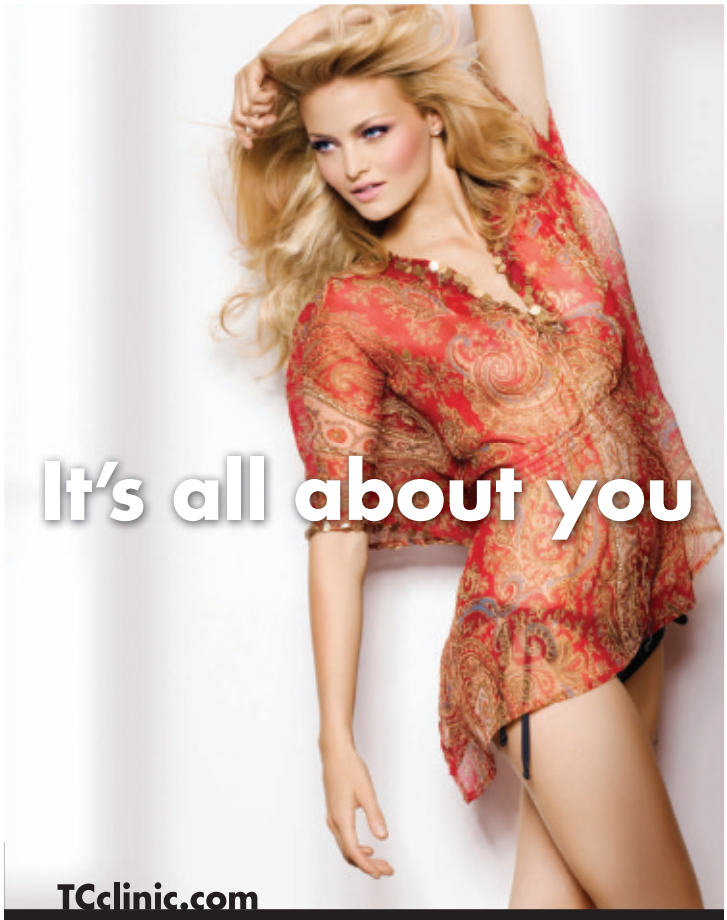
Both parties seem to be sussing each other out. Liberal defence critic Ujjal Dosanjh said some Tories have casually approached him to get a read on his party's position.

"(The) odd Conservative has asked me: 'Where are you guys?' And my answer always has been, 'Look, come up with a proposal, give it to us,'" he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pullout planned for 2011

- Parliament passed a motion two years ago to end combat operations in Kandahar by July 2011. But the motion said nothing about staying in other parts of the country. Prime Minister Stephen Harper added the rider that every Canadian soldier would leave Afghanistan.



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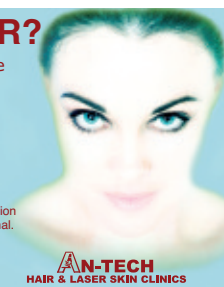

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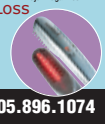

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World

DAVE MARTIN/ AP PHOTO

Institute of Marine Mammal Sciences researcher Justin Main takes photographs yesterday of a dead sea turtle on the beach in Pass Christian, Miss. The researchers were collecting dead turtles and will examine them to determine the cause of death.

Obama inspects U.S. oil spill site

Faced with an environmental catastrophe, U.S. President Barack Obama rushed to the Gulf Coast yesterday to inspect forces arrayed against a spreading oil gusher threatening fragile coastal wetlands. Cabinet members said the situation was grave, but insisted the administration was doing everything it could.

Under threat of tornadoes, the president shunned helicopter travel and drove from New Orleans to tour a close-to-the-water staging area where the government and well-owner BP are trying to keep the 50-kilometre long oil slick from causing even more damage. As of now, it appeared little could be done in the short term to stem the oil flow.

At his first stop, Obama questioned Adm. Thad Allen, the Coast Guard commandant, about the potential impact on shipping lanes in the Gulf.

The leaking oil well is not only an ecological disaster but a potential political hazard, as well, depending on how the public judges the Obama administration's response.

Then-president George W. Bush stumbled in dealing with hurricane Katrina in the Gulf in 2005, leaving the impression of a president distant from the immense suffering. His presidency never recovered.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said any comparison between the ruptured BP oil well and hurricane Katrina was "a total mischaracterization" and the government has taken an "all-hands-on-deck" approach.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brown calls his Labour Party underdog in electoral race

BRITAIN Prime Minister Gordon Brown said yesterday that his Labour Party, which has ruled the country for 13 years, has become the underdog in a three-way race to lead Britain.

Labour holds 345 seats in Parliament and the party could still cling to power even if it is handed a humiliating third-place finish in the popular vote Thursday. Brown told The Observer newspaper that his party was the one facing the longest odds.

"We are the underdog," he said. "But we're fighting with every inch of our being."

The Observer threw its support behind the insurgent Liberal Democrats, who shot to the top of the polls after Britain's first U.S.-style televised debates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PAKISTAN A fleet of army helicopter gunships pounded insurgent hideouts in northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 22 militants and wounding a number of others, a government official told the Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roman Polanski breaks silence, says case will "serve him on a platter" to media.

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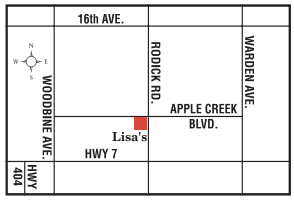

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German police officer caught on tape
Berlin police are investigating an officer who was caught on video kicking a protester in the head as police broke up a demonstration May 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian memorial at Kandahar Airfield will receive two new wings and include U.S. soldiers.

Canada to expand Kandahar memorial

U.S. soldiers to be included in a show of solidarity

It's a sign of unwavering respect, but also a sign of the times, and perhaps a sign of things to come.

The Canadian memorial to soldiers at Kandahar Airfield is about to undergo a major expansion, adding two wings to the existing structure to accommodate American soldiers who have been killed serving under Canadian command.

The white marble and black granite cenotaph has grown steadily over the years. It started in 2006 as a simple boulder where plaques of fallen soldiers were hung. But as the casualties mounted with heartbreaking regularity, the tribute quickly outgrew its place and the current open-air vault was created.

Over the past year, 26 American soldiers serving under a Canadian commander have died in action, the vast majority through insidious homemade bombs. There are three U.S. army battalions under the direction of Task Force Kandahar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Higher casualties

- U.S. casualties started to outpace Canadian losses late last year and that's before the summer fighting season.

News in brief

IMMIGRATION Arizona's largest newspaper criticized U.S. senators John McCain and Jon Kyl and others in a rare front-page editorial yesterday, saying the politicians have failed to find solutions to illegal immigration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lightning kills 16 in Bangladesh
A domestic news agency reports lightning has left at least 16 people dead and scores of others injured in parts of Bangladesh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BINOD JOSHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) participate in a torch rally yesterday in Katmandu, Nepal. Thousands of Maoist supporters marched through the city streets enforcing an indefinite general strike to demand Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal's resignation.

Maoists shut down Nepal

Opposition seeks PM's resignation with strike

Maoist opposition supporters armed with bamboo sticks enforced a general strike that closed transportation, schools and markets across Nepal yesterday to demand the prime minister's resignation.

Thousands of supporters of the former communist rebels marched in the streets of the capital, Kathmandu, waving sticks and the political party's red flag. They gathered at main intersections, chanting anti-government slogans and sometimes singing and dancing.

On Saturday, the Maoists staged a huge rally in Kathmandu, but Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal refused their demands he resign and be replaced by a Maoist-led government. He said the Himalayan country's political crisis should be resolved through dialogue.

The Maoists have been seeking to oust the government for months, although this is the first time they have imposed an indefinite strike. The standoff has raised fears of renewed violence in Nepal, where the Maoists ended their decade-old insurgency and joined a peace process in 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN PERSON

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My friend thought I was pregnant

"Whenever I was invited out I would worry for days in advance, about what to wear. I did not want anyone to notice my bloated stomach. The problem got worse when a friend asked if I was pregnant."

Always craving sweets

"I noticed that sweets, cakes and bread made the problem worse. They made me feel tired, moody and still craving sweets. My friend told me that I probably have an imbalance in my intestinal flora and recommended a product called dida™, which could help against bloating. So I gave dida™ a try.

Initially, I still had some bloating, but after about 3 weeks it was gone! No more flatulence and no more bloating! What a joy to be back to normal and not have to worry about hiding my inflated stomach. I also feel better and more energetic – as if an inner strength is back."

- Jane A., Sweden

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Candida Albicans is a fungus that lives in our intestines and genitals. Normally it lives in harmony with our bodies but for some people, their diet or medications create an intestinal imbalance and this fungus overgrows. This creates a plethora of symptoms, such as stomach pains, bloating, genital itching, mood swings and sugar cravings.

There are a variety of causes of overgrowth, such as a diet high in sugar, yeast and refined foods, as well as the use of antibiotics. And most people never know why they are suffering from these symptoms, until they get a yeast infection. Treatments are often short lived and do not prevent the problems from reoccurring.

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Wicked weather kills 10

Seven people were killed in Tennessee and three in northern Mississippi by a line of storms that brought heavy flooding and tornadoes to the region over the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaking out against Israel

Thousands of European Jews sign petition decrying settlement policy

More than 3,000 European Jews, including prominent intellectuals, have signed a petition speaking out against Israeli settlement policies and warning that systematic support for the Israeli government is dangerous.

The petition's signatories include French philosophers Bernard-Henri Levy and Alain Finkielkraut as well as Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a Greens leader in the European Parliament.

Backers — who compare their goals to those of J Street, a liberal pro-Israel Jewish lobbying group in the U.S. — plan to present their position at a news conference today at the European Parliament in Brussels.

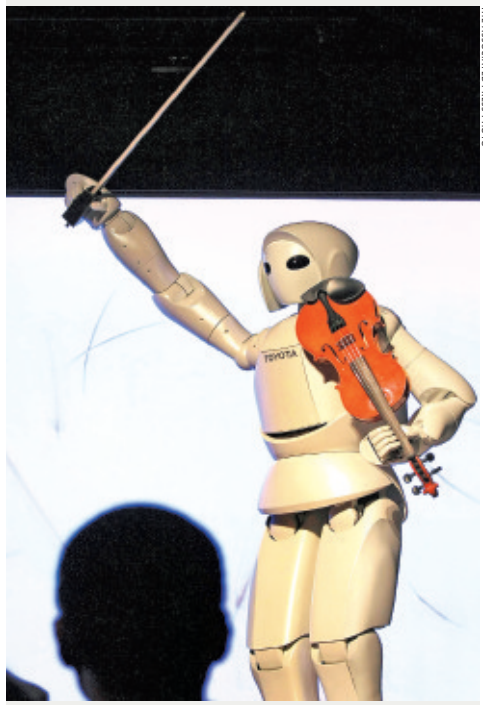
Supporters hope to build a European movement that is both "committed to the state of Israel and critical of the current choices of its government."

Israeli columnist Yossi Sarid, a former cabinet minister identified with Israel's dovish peace movement, praised the initiative in an op-ed published in the Haaretz daily yesterday.

"These are people who seize every opportunity to defend Israel publicly and remain faithful to it," he wrote. "But even their patience is running out and their hearts are filled with sincere concern."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Partner Robot **But can it sing?**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Toyota's Partner Robot plays the violin yesterday at the Japan Pavilion on the second day of the Shanghai World Expo in Shanghai, China.

China steps up school security

ATTACKS When classes resume in China this week, police officers and vans will be stationed outside school gates in the bustling southwestern city of Chongqing while newly installed video surveillance and intruder alarms will be keeping watch over classrooms in eastern Fujian. Guards patrolling school premises in southeastern Jiangxi will carry police batons and pepper spray.

Chinese authorities have ordered school security to be tightened nationwide, part of the government's effort to assert control and calm public fears after three back-to-back attacks on schools last week that left a few dozen children injured. The measures start tomorrow when schools reopen after a three-day holiday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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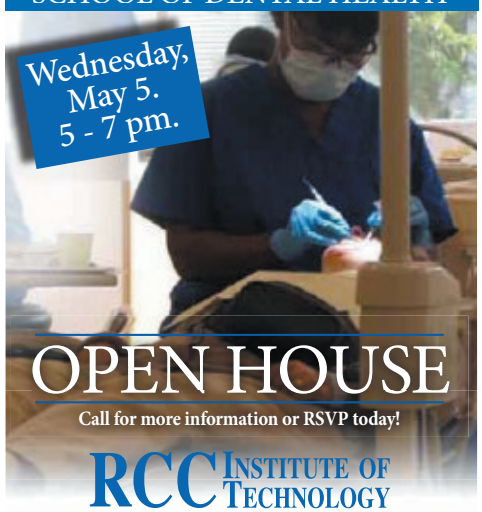

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Comment

What the TTC union can do next

After holding three town halls for rider input, the TTC's main union should have a pretty good idea of how customer service must improve. President Bob Kinnear says ATU local 113 will take a few months to work on key strategies, but he's already indicated the union may push for greater funding to address underlying causes of overcrowding and unreliable service.

The ATU is also likely to ask TTC management to make changes — possibly around the tricky issue of enforcing fares as well as better communication technology to inform customers of delays.

However, union members need to focus on problems they have more control over.

If a minority of employees are treating riders with indifference or disrespect, then their colleagues must show this is no longer acceptable. When some drivers or maintenance workers don't do their job or take advantage of lax supervision, their peers can't look the other way.

Quick tip

- To learn what the TTC's union has heard from riders, watch Rogers TV Channel 10 tonight starting at 7.

As for communication, Kinnear admits it's one of the TTC's biggest failings. The union has to recognize those situations where its own members keep silent and leave customers fuming.

To be fair, sometimes employees simply do not know why a subway delay has occurred or when service will resume. Likewise, bus and streetcar drivers may not have much control over short turns or bunching, but too many seem to offer little notice or apology.

Sometimes, just acknowledging the inconvenience can reduce frustration. There also has to be a way to inform riders when a vehicle is ahead of schedule and is required to wait — which can explain why the driver is killing time at a green light or running into a doughnut shop.

Better technology will improve communications somewhat, but it's going to be individual employees who fill the gaps — and who have to keep their cool when riders demand more details than are available.

The ATU and TTC should continuously meet and discuss communication protocols for both subway and surface disruptions.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Worth mentioning

Attractive co-workers fluster men: Study

TOMAS LUNDIN
Metro World News

Men's brains stop working after talking to attractive female colleagues, according to a new study.

In an experiment at the Dutch University of Radboud, students took part in a series of tests that were interrupted midway by a conversation with a person of the same or opposite sex.

When the test continued the men's performance had deteriorated notably if they had been talking to a woman.

And the results got markedly worse if they had found the woman attractive.

Women

- For the women in the study there was no difference in performance whether they were speaking to either sex.

The difference is thought to be that when men talk to beautiful women they are so preoccupied with thinking about what they are saying, what they look like and how they are perceived that some brain functions are shut down — even after the conversation has ended.

Researcher Johan Karremans said: "The results were dramatically worse if the man thought the woman was attractive.

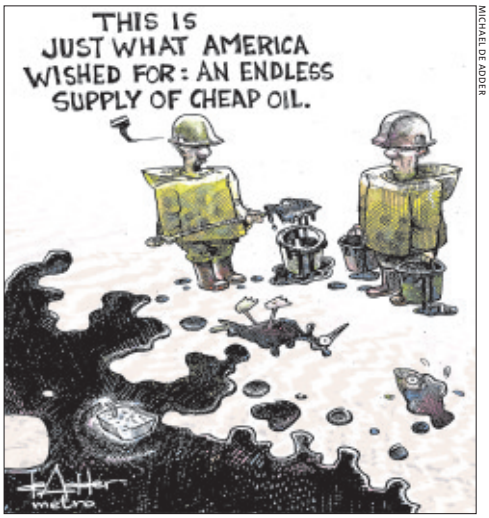
"Cognitive ability works like a muscle. If you do a lot of hard work it tires after a while and that leaves you less power to do other things."

But he added all that brain effort was not necessarily wasted, adding: "We noticed that the men who did the most to impress also got more attention from the women."

Neither does he recommend separating men and women at work.

"No, in real life the effects may not be that huge," he said.

"There may also be other benefits, like the fact that you get a more pleasant work environment."



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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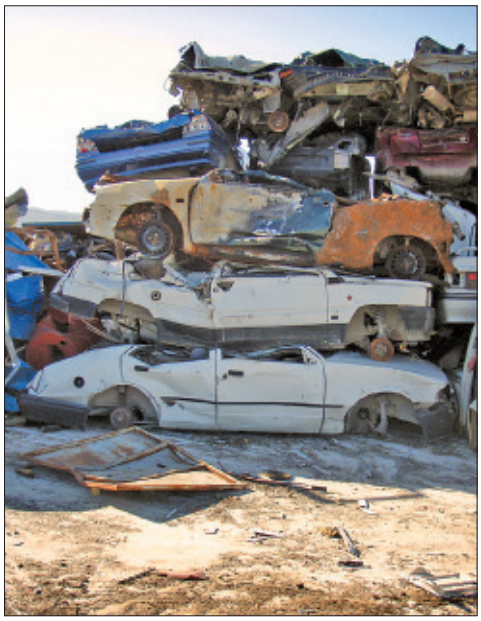
Going Green

Straight up info

In this book Straight Up, author Joe Romm (a celebrated blogger) explains the dangers of and solutions to climate change that you won't find in newspapers, in journals, or on TV.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA



If your car is from a 1995 model year or older, you can apply to Retire Your Ride.

Putting a dirty drive in park

Canadian program offers cash, incentives to Retire Your Ride

BEN KNIGHT
for Metro Canada

Last July, U.S. President Barack Obama launched a Cash for Clunkers program designed to get old, polluting vehicle off American roads.

Response was so overwhelming, the operation was shut down less than two months later when it simply ran out of money.

What is less well-known is that Canada already had a similar plan in place. Launched in February 2009, Retire Your Ride has already exceeded its goal of 50,000 cars, nationally. It still has plenty of resources, and will continue until the end of next March.

"This is Canada's national vehicle scrappage program," national director Carla Kearns says. "It's about working with Canadians to encourage them to responsibly retire their older vehicles."

If your car is from the 1995 model year or older, you can apply to enter the program. If accepted, your car will be responsibly recycled, and you can receive a $300 payment, or choose from a series of environmentally friendly incentives.

"Cash works for a lot of people, but we have a lot of other incentives across the country that actually have a higher value than the cash alone," Kearns explains. "Many municipalities offer transit passes for six months, a year or even 15 months. Or, it could be something like a membership in a car-sharing program. We also have a number of automobile partners who can offer a rebate off the purchase of a new car."

The program is also available in French, under the wonderful name Adieu Bazou.

"One of the things we're looking to do is reduce smog in the air." Kearns notes, "So we want to make sure that these cars are actually running. We don't want to be taking cars off the road that are up on blocks in somebody's yard. To be eligible for the program, your car has to be insured for the past six months, and registered in your name."

Kearns adds that vehicles manufactured in or after 1996 do not qualify.

"There was a huge leap of improvement in vehicle emission standards between 1995 and '96. Results differ by manufacturer, but 1995 and earlier, they're pretty much all on the bad end of that range."

Retire Your Ride is funded by the federal government, and overseen nationally by Summerhill Impact.

They run a range pollution-reducing programs, including Mow Down Pollution, which offers incentives to replace gas-powered lawn mowers.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Some municipalities are offering transit passes to Retire Your Ride.

Apply now

- Apply now to get your clunker off the road at retireyourride.ca.

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Scotiabank acquires Puerto Rican bank's assets
Scotiabank has agreed to buy all the assets and deposits of R-G Premier Bank in Puerto Rico, one of six banks shut down by U.S. regulators. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Greek bailout adds swing

Another volatile week of trading is in the cards as stock markets keep one eye on Greece and the other eye on a raft of economic data and earnings reports.

Markets have had difficulty finding consistent direction in recent weeks as investors weigh upbeat earnings and economic news in North America against persistent worries about European debt. Gareth Watson, director of the Canadian Equities Portfolio Advisory Group at ScotiaMcLeod, said this week should be no different.

"I think that when it comes to very near-term market performance, the focus is usually on the corporation," Watson said.

"However, in the longer term, I think … you start to get the jitters about the Greeces of the world."

Finance ministers from the 16 countries that use the euro agreed yesterday to rescue Greece with $110 billion in loans with the International Monetary Fund over three years. In return, Greece outlined an austerity program.

Companies that will report quarterly results this week include Suncor Energy Inc., Onex Corp., Brookfield Asset Management Inc., Manulife Financial Corp., Thomson Reuters Corp., Loblaw Companies Ltd., Air Canada and WestJet. Employment numbers will be reported Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buffett Smacking the economy

NATI HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berkshire Hathaway chairman and CEO Warren Buffett performs yesterday for people who came for his annual meeting in Omaha, Neb. Berkshire Hathaway has rebounded from last year's first-quarter loss by earning $3.6 billion.

Business in brief

MINNEAPOLIS Directors at Continental and United airlines have approved a deal that would combine them into the world's largest airline, a source with knowledge of the situation said yesterday. The stock-swap deal values Continental at some $3.2 billion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Loyalty Can Be Costly

Shopping Around Still The Key To Saving On Car Insurance

How Much Is Your Loyalty Discount Really Worth?

If you're like most consumers, you worry that switching insurance companies means losing your "loyalty discount". The truth is that switching insurance companies may cause you to lose your loyalty discount (*if you had one in the first place*), but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll pay more for car insurance or that you can't save a bundle in the end. The fact is, some insurance companies may provide a small discount on your premium if you've been with them for a long time – but that small discount can quickly become irrelevant if another company has a rate for you that is significantly less than what you're currently paying. After all, what good is 5% off of an annual rate of $1,500 (a $75 savings) if you could pay $1,100 (a $400 savings) with another company?

How Much Do Rates Really Differ Across Companies?

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with so many insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, odds are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by providing an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available for your profile. Even better, once your lowest rate is found, InsuranceHotline.com can connect you with a licensed insurance broker or agent to seal the deal. It's Fast, Safe and FREE.

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Unlike most of its competitors, InsuranceHotline.com does not sell insurance, is not a licensed broker or agent, and is not owned in whole or in part by an insurance company. This allows InsuranceHotline.com to be completely unbiased when providing insurance quotes and keeps its focus solely on finding the lowest insurance rates for consumers. By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

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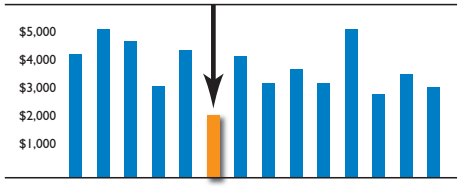

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Roys roll into town

Former junior hockey goalie turned musician Jonathan Roy will be performing tonight at the Mod Club. His father, hockey legend Patrick Roy, will be in the attendance to lend his support. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

King James extends MVP reign

LeBron James, left, won his second straight NBA MVP award, dominating the voting just as he dominated on court all season. The Cleveland Cavaliers star received 116 of a possible 123 first-place votes to win in a landslide yesterday over Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant. Durant was picked first on four ballots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Jays help Marcum get long-awaited win

MLB RESULTS

Athletics 3 Blue Jays 9

VS

Alex Gonzalez, Fred Lewis and Aaron Hill hit home runs to boost Shaun Marcum to his first win since Sept. 11, 2008, as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Oakland Athletics 9-3 yesterday afternoon.

The victory helped the Blue Jays (13-13) take three of four from Oakland to complete a 3-4 homestand. Toronto now embarks on a 10-game trip beginning today in Cleveland.

Marcum (1-1) allowed six hits and one run in 6⅓ innings in his sixth start of the season after reconstructive elbow surgery forced him to miss the 2009 season. He underwent Tommy John surgery Sept. 30, 2008.

His start yesterday lowered his earned-run average to 3.12.

Oakland starter Ben Sheets (1-3), who also missed 2009 after undergoing elbow surgery, allowed 10 hits and nine runs in 3⅓ innings as his earned-run average soared to 7.12.

The Blue Jays scored four runs in the first inning that started on a leadoff walk and stolen base by Lewis. Hill and Vernon Wells doubled, and Gonzalez hit his eighth homer of the season to tie Wells for the team lead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

CFL DRAFT

FIRST ROUND

1. Saskatchewan (via Toronto), Shomari Williams, LB, Queen's; 2. **Toronto (via Saskatchewan), Joe Eppele, OL, Washington State**; 3. **Toronto (via B.C.), Cory Greenwood, LB, Concordia**; 4. B.C., Danny Watkins, OL, Baylor; 5. Calgary, Rob Maver, P-K, Guelph; 6. Edmonton (via Winnipeg), Brian Bulcke, DL, Stanford; 7. Montreal, Kristian Matte, OL, Concordia.

NHL PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 Pittsburgh 1 (Series tied 1-1)
Detroit at San Jose

NBA PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 95 Milwaukee 74 (Hawks win series 4-3)
L.A. Lakers 104 Utah 99 (Lakers lead 1-0)

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

TORONTO 9 Oakland 3
Baltimore 3 Boston 2 (10 ings)
Detroit 5 L.A. Angels 1
Minnesota 8 Cleveland 3
N.Y. Yankees 12 Chicago White Sox 3
Tampa Bay 1 Kansas City 0
Texas 3 Seattle 1

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Atlanta 7 Houston 1
Chicago Cubs 10 Arizona 5
Colorado 4 San Francisco 1
Florida 9 Washington 3
L.A. Dodgers 9 Pittsburgh 3
San Diego 8 Milwaukee 0
St. Louis 6 Cincinnati 0
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia

Habs even series

(Series tied 1-1)

Canadiens 3 Penguins 1

VS

Sidney Crosby showed his exasperation by slamming his stick against the net as the Pittsburgh Penguins were turned aside again and again by Montreal goaltender Jaroslav Halak.

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal Canadien Michael Cammalleri fires a goal past Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury yesterday.

Turns out it's not just Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals that the underdog Canadiens are capable of frustrating, tormenting and beating.

Mike Cammalleri scored two more goals, Halak made 38 saves in a performance much like his series-stealing play during Montreal's first-round upset of Washington and the Canadiens surprised the Penguins by winning 3-1 yesterday.

Brian Gionta also scored as Montreal, playing without injured defenceman Andrei Markov, bounced back from a 6-3 loss in Game 1 and an early 1-0 deficit to even the Eastern Conference semifinal series at one game each.

Suddenly, a series the Stanley Cup champion Penguins are heavily favoured to win doesn't look like a walkover after all.

"That's what we wanted to do, a series like this, we wanted to get one (in Pittsburgh)," Scott Gomez said. "It's far from over. But we came for one."

And they got it. Game 3 is tomorrow night in Montreal, followed by Game 4 Thursday. The first playoff series between the teams since 1998 returns to Pittsburgh for Game 5 Saturday.

"It's nothing to get frustrated about," Penguins forward Bill Guerin said. "We don't have to go and reinvent the wheel.

"They're a solid defensive team. They're well coached, they know what they're doing and you don't want to get down to teams like that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

TENNIS Rafael Nadal maintained his focus through two rain delays to beat fellow Spanish player David Ferrer 7-5, 6-2 yesterday and claim his fifth Rome Masters title in six years.

TENNIS Justine Henin beat Samantha Stosur 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 in the final of the Porsche Grand Prix yesterday to capture her first title since coming out of retirement in January.

SOCCER Chelsea stayed at the top of the Premier League with a 2-0 victory at Liverpool yesterday, while Manchester United made sure the title race will go to the last day with a 1-0 win at Sunderland.

CFL DRAFT The Saskatchewan Roughriders dealt for the first pick of the CFL Canadian college draft then used it to take Queen's linebacker Shomari Williams yesterday. At No. 2, the Argos took Joe Eppele, a hulking six-foot-eight, 309-pound offensive lineman from Washington State.

GOLF Rory McIlroy won his first PGA Tour event in record style. The 20-year-old from Northern Ireland rolled in a 40-foot birdie putt on the final hole yesterday to set the course record with a 10-under 62 and win the Quail Hollow Championship.

NHL Bruins forward Marco Sturm will miss the rest of the post-season with torn ligaments in his right knee. Coach Claude Julien said yesterday that Sturm will not be back after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in his knee on the first shift of Boston's 5-4 OT victory over the Philadelphia Flyers in Saturday's opener of their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Governance changes underway for NSAC
Nova Scotia Agricultural College is in the process of transitioning from a branch of the province's agriculture department to an institution governed by a board like the rest of the universities in Nova Scotia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

OCAD to get university designation?

Last week, the Ontario government proposed amendments to the Ontario College of Art and Design Act, which, if passed, will give official university status to the institution. Through the proposed amendments, the school's name would become the Ontario College of Art and Design University. The act would also officially recognize the role of the chancellor and revise the powers of the current board to recognize the creation of an academic senate. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Fusing metals: Best of both worlds

OddJobs

"You have to get good enough to not worry about melting a thousand dollars worth of metal in your lap."
Mokume gane jewelry designer John Carnes

No need to call the fire department, but John Carnes is running a homemade kiln at 1,500 degrees in the spare room in his Toronto apartment.

The kiln is tiny and Carnes, 45, keeps a fire extinguisher nearby. He's never had to use it.

He's using it to create jewelry in an ancient technique called mokume gane, which means "wood-grain metal." Few in Canada use this technique, which was invented in 17th century Japan.

Carnes was born in Los Angeles, and grew up in Hawaii. He liked to paint and draw, but gave up art as a teen to focus on playing bass. Back in California after high school, he became a full-time musician.

That craft took him to New York in 1993 where he played jazz, big band, reggae and funk. But he tired of the lifestyle and decided to explore art again.

Living in Woodstock, N.Y., at the time, he set up a studio in his attic and began taking courses in jewelry making.

Eight years later, he heard about mokume gane. He was teaching jewelry making and his students encouraged him to figure it out — they wanted to learn too.

On his own, using copper, silver and inexpensive Japanese alloys called shakudo and shibuichi, he taught himself. Since his jewelry style was minimal, the wood-grain look of the style suited his work, and set him apart. "I realized what a nice little niche this was."

In 2005, Carnes and his wife at the time moved to Toronto. He began doing his jewelry full time — along with some music on the side.

The process begins with sheets of metal — he uses the Japanese metals, silver and red, white and yellow gold — cut into small rectangles. Carnes clamps the sheets together, heats up his kiln with a jeweller's torch, and puts them inside. They get very hot, and just before the melting stage their molecules move around a lot. The metals fuse and the colours blend.

The temperature has to be just right. "They all have different melting points. It's difficult, and I'm doing this all visually."

Carnes then starts twisting and drilling into the block to create patterns with the fused colours. When that's done, he uses his traditional jewelry making equipment to roll out the metals, file and form the piece of jewelry.

Carnes does mainly custom ordered rings and sells them through his web site and high-end stores across Canada. "There are not many others doing this work. You have to get good enough to not worry about melting a thousand dollars worth of metal in your lap."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Mokume gane jewelry designer
Salary: $40,000 or so
Education/training: He's self-taught
Best Part of the Job: "Working for myself, being able to listen to whatever I want while I work."
Worst Part of the Job: "Spending a lot of time by myself. And dealing with the ups and downs of not having a paycheque every week."

Mokume gane was invented in 17th century Japan by swordsmiths.

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New president appointed at NorQuest
Last week, Edmonton-based NorQuest College announced the appointment of Dr. Jodi Abbott as the institution's next president and CEO, effective July 1. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Reemployment after layoffs getting easier

As the economy gradually improves, laid-off workers' job searches are beginning to improve in 2010 as well.

According to an updated survey by CareerBuilder, 51 per cent of workers who were laid off in the last three months have found new full-time or part-time positions. This is up from 44 per cent of workers who said the same in a November 2009 survey.

"As consumers and businesses grow more confident in the economic outlook, hiring managers are beginning to add new staff at an improved, but cautious pace," said Brent Rasmussen, President of CareerBuilder North America.

"More than half of workers who were laid off in the first quarter have already found employment, primarily in full-time positions. Not only is this a positive indicator for the labour market, it also shows that job seekers are being resourceful in their job hunts and are open to different types of opportunities."

Changes in Pay

Looking at workers who were laid off in the last three months and found new jobs, nearly 40 per cent reported they were able to negotiate comparable or higher pay for their new position. Sixty-one per cent of workers took a pay cut.

Re-Hired

Businesses are beginning to bring back their workforce. Fifty-seven per cent of workers laid off in the last six months have been re-hired by their former employer who laid them off from their jobs. Seven-in-10 (71 per cent) of workers who were laid off in the last six months and have not found jobs would be willing to work for their former employer. Of these workers, 22 per cent indicated that they would only return to their previous workplace if their employer offered them more money.

Transferring Skills

Workers reported they are repackaging their skills and experience for different industries. Sixty-four per cent of workers who were laid off in the last six months and landed new jobs said they found work in a different field than where they were previously employed. More than half of them (55 per cent) reported they really enjoy their new positions.

Plans to Change Employers

The majority of laid-off workers (63 per cent) who found new jobs in the last six months plan to stay with their current employers when the economy turns around. Thirty-seven per cent plan to change employers once market conditions improve.

Relocation

Workers are also expanding their job searches beyond their current borders. More than four-in-10 (46 per cent) workers who were laid off in the last six months and found jobs relocated. Of those laid off in the last six months and still looking for employment, 42 per cent reported they would consider relocating for a job opportunity.

Starting a Business

Some job seekers indicated they are embracing entrepreneurship in their efforts to find employment. Thirty-two per cent of workers who were laid off in the last six months and have not found jobs are considering starting their own businesses. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Rush documentary scores at Tribeca
According to Variety, the documentary Rush: Beyond the Lighted Stage has snagged the audience award at the Tribeca Film Festival. Scot McFayden and Sam Dunn, the directors of the film, will be rewarded $25,000 for the win. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

The Ref
Demi Moore will be a featured panelist on an upcoming episode of The Marriage Ref. Moore, 47, will be joined by Kelly Ripa and Lewis Black on the May 20 episode. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Not just a pretty face

Molly Ringwald shares candid personal stories in new book

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

For many, Molly Ringwald will always be 16, immortalized at that tender age by her endearing roles in the classic '80s teen flicks Sixteen Candles, Pretty in Pink and The Breakfast Club.

But today, the former teen queen is a happily married 42-year-old mother of three (a seven-year-old and nine-month-old twins), who has enjoyed a charmed life.

In her new book, Getting the Pretty Back: Friendship, Family, and finding the Perfect Lipstick, the actress shares candid stories from her personal life, lessons she's learned over the years, and doles out advice on everything from dating to dressing.

Part autobiography, part chick lit, part lifestyle guide, the book evolved from what Ringwald says was self-reflection as she neared a milestone in her own life.

"I was turning 40, and it's sort of an angst-ridden time and I wanted to write a book that I wanted to read," explains Ringwald over the phone from New York where she and her husband, writer and editor Panio Gianopoulos, live part-time when they're not in Los Angeles.

"I wanted the book to be really light and inspirational and uplifting and fun and colourful and I just wanted to write a book about being a woman rather than a girl," she says.

Former teen idol Molly Ringwald doles out advice on everything from dating to dressing in her new book Pretty Back: Friendship, Family, and finding the Perfect Lipstick.

Divided into nine chapters, Pretty tackles the various elements of womanhood.

"There's a motherhood chapter, a friendship chapter, a love chapter, a fitness chapter," explains Ringwald.

Despite finding fame at a young age, Ringwald managed to stay away from the drug addiction that plagued so many of her Brat Pack peers. "I just instinctively knew that if I went along that path, it would lead to no good," she says matter-of-factly. "There was just too much that I wanted to do in life that I thought drugs would just slow me down."

She left Hollywood in the '90s and moved to France, where she lived with her first husband, French writer Valery Lameignère, before returning to the U.S. and starring in various Broadway productions, including Cabaret.

Then came her second marriage and motherhood. But that hasn't slowed down her professional projects. In June, Ringwald returns to the TV as Anne Juergens in the third season of ABC's The Secret Life of the American Teenager. She's also in the midst of finishing up a jazz album and plans to write a second book — she hasn't yet decided what it's going to be about.

If anything, Pretty serves to remind us that Molly Ringwald's life didn't begin and end in a teen movie.

"In the end, I'd like to be remembered as a good person, as a good friend, as a good mother," says Ringwald. "There's the acting, the writing, the singing and all that, but that's not the most important thing for me."

Pretty Woman

• Getting the Pretty Back: Friendship, Family, and finding the Perfect Lipstick is the new book from Molly Ringwald.

The joke goes on for Family Guy creator

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane says no topic — including the Prophet Muhammad — should be off-limits for a comedy show. As long as it's a funny joke.

"No one is a bigger critic of organized religion than I am," says MacFarlane in reaction to the recent terrorist death threat leveled against the cartoon South Park over its spoofing of Muhammad.

Broadcaster Comedy Central eventually censored the episode without the cooperation of South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

"It's tricky. You pick your battles," says MacFarlane. "You have to judge how real the threat is against how funny the joke is. How much do I care about the joke?"

MacFarlane — whose Sunday cartoon empire also includes American Dad and The Cleveland Show — says potentially controversial jokes on Family Guy go through "internal discussions" before they air.

"It depends on what the joke is about. Immediacy has a lot to do with it. A recent shooting or plane crash, we try to stay away from."

Family Guy airs Sundays on Global

Seth MacFarlane

In one instance, a joke about Scientology was dropped, while a bit about Terri Schiavo — the U.S. woman at the center of a right to die debate several years ago — was used.

"The issue had received an enormous amount of attention. It was our duty as a comedy show to comment on it in some way," he says.

MacFarlane — whose recent $100 million US deal with Fox has made him the top paid writer/producer in TV history — says the much-talked-about Family Guy movie is still in its "early stages."

As for future one has to ask — is there a fourth animated series currently kicking around MacFarlane's brain?

"No immediate plans. Just devolving into a miserable, alcohol-induced deterioration," he laughs. "I have a hefty workload with the three shows I have."

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Beyoncé buzz in town

Will music couple settle down in Pennsylvania?

Hey, did ya hear the news? Beyoncé and Jay-Z are moving to Schuylkill County, Pa.!

That's the rumour swirling around these parts, that the singer and her rap mogul husband, Grammy Award winners both, are planning to buy a multimillion-dollar spread on 85 secluded hectares in eastern Pennsylvania.

What began as idle gossip has turned into an article of faith among many here.

People are talking about it in grocery stores and pharmacies, at the fitness centre and kids' T-ball games, online and over the phone.

A fan from nearby Orwigsburg even posted a message on Beyoncé's official website: "Hello Miss Beyoncé you are creating quite a stir in our small community ... We want to welcome you to our small but wonderful community,

Beyoncé and Jay-Z

it has a lot of heart."

No one seems to know how the rumour got started. No deed has been recorded in the courthouse, no real estate transfer tax has been paid, and the celebs have yet to request a showing, according to the real estate agent listing the house.

But the gossip persists, supercharged by unconfirmed sightings of Beyoncé at several businesses, from Boyer's supermarket to Heisler's dairy bar. And who was riding in that black Lamborghini seen tooling around town?

"I'm gonna tell everyone I'm their neighbours."
Beyoncé fan
Brooke Shilling

Beyoncé fans Brooke Shilling and Anne Tomtishen, college students from nearby Pottsville and Ringtown, drove up to the front gate after class one day this week, excited by the prospect of one of the planet's best-known celebrity couples making a home in Schuylkill County.

"I'm gonna tell everyone I'm their neighbours. It's insane!" gushed Shilling, 20.

Added Tomtishen, 23: "Maybe she'll have babies. That would be awesome!"

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Dark Knight sequel gets release date
A sequel to The Dark Knight will swoop into theatres in 2012. Warner Bros. scheduled July 20, 2012, as the release date for the next installment of the Batman film franchise. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Micro-fictions worth read

Socialite

Last year, Ernest Hemingway tweeted one of his own quotables: "That is what we are supposed to do when we are at our best — make it all up — but make it up so truly that later it will happen that way."

Well, not the writer himself, but an enthusiastic fan posing as him on Twitter as @ehemingway.

The legacy of the original Hemingway lives on, as his tweet-, text-, and status update-like style dominates our online language. Blame Papa (who won a $10 bet for this short story: For sale: Baby shoes, never worn) for engaging in micro-fiction, a literary form perfectly in tune with the other lumps of online data we regularly consume.

Toronto-based writer Julie Wilson believes 140-character word counts are akin to the poet's stanza constraints. "You have people talking, responding and observing the world — putting creativity out there in a public way that's completely fascinating," she said.

Since 2006, Wilson — the "Gossip Girl of the book world" who's worked for publishers such as House of Anansi Press — has maintained seenreading.com, a popular "literary voyeur" site that captures people reading on the subway, in parks, in coffee shops. She imagines those readers as characters, and spins them into micro-fiction postings.

However, she's still concerned about how this changes our definition of literature.

"If it can be delivered in a tweet, does that suggest there's any less thought or labour?" Wilson muses.

"As a reader, I'm the sort of person that if you get me in a sentence, I have to put the book down because I'm caught by how wondrous it is," she says. "That's the power of micro-fiction."

Rea McNamara writes about the on/offline statuses of niches and subcultures. Follow her on Twitter @reeraw

21st century bookworming

- **Bite-Size Edits:** "Users proof and edit small snippets of larger manuscripts, but it's only a matter of time before writers start using the platform to edit one-sentence stories," says Wilson, who's uploaded her own sentences for crowd-sourced editing. (bitesizeedits.com)
- **Canadian Poetry Fortune Tellers:** "(Canadian poet) Dani Couture's lo-fi Poetry Fortune Tellers riff off the fortune tellers of our youth." Each hand-drawn fold reveals poetry lines from Couture's favourite poets. (Download the PDF from blackbearonwater.com)

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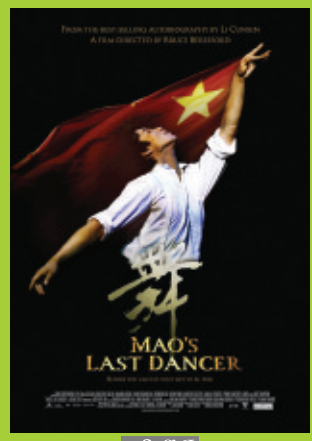

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Seinfeld curse lifted for Louis-Dreyfus

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

With the fifth season of The New Adventures of Old Christine wrapping up next week, it's safe to say Emmy-winner Julia Louis-Dreyfus has successfully dodged the Seinfeld curse.

The acclaimed comic actress, who receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next week, sat down with Metro to talk about the series that's been keeping her happily busy for five years.

Q After five seasons, what do you think Christine has learned over the years?

A Oh, she's learned nothing. That's why things are getting worse.

Q Where do you plan to take the character at this point in the show's history?

A To more humiliating places for sure. That is really our goal.

Q Does it always have to be humiliating? Or will she be able to find happiness at some level?

A I think she finds a way to be happy, and sometimes isn't even aware of the fact that she's being humiliated, which is also fun to play, that kind of buffoonery. But sure, there are moments of happiness, and then there are moments of despair. But ultimately, you know, obviously our goal is to be funny. So it seems it's better to laugh at her.

Q Was it tough switching between playing Christine and playing a version of yourself on Curb Your Enthusiasm?

A Not really. On Curb Your Enthusiasm, it's strange because you're playing yourself but not really playing yourself, because I would never do anything like that. … On our show, it's just a different style of performing. I try to bring a kind of reality to it even if it's not something I would do.

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Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to Hollywood.com:

1. **A Nightmare on Elm Street:** $32.2 million US
2. **How to Train Your Dragon** $10.8 million
3. **Date Night:** $7.6 million

Date Night star Steve Carrell

4. **The Back-up Plan** $7.2 million
5. **Furry Vengeance:** $6.5 million
6. **The Losers:** $6 million
7. **Clash of the Titans:** $5.98 million
8. **Kick-ass,:** $4.5 million
9. **Death at a Funeral:** $4 million
10. **Oceans:** $2.6 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

	To	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/3/10		265	353	2	TVO	Victorian Farm		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Empire of the Word		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "The Choice" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		News Hour
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		How I Met	How I Met	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Curb-Enthsm	Curb-Enthsm	News
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	CSI: Miami "Meltdown"		Big Bang	Big Bang	Castle "Food to Die For"		CTV News
		218	345	11	CHCH	*Before Sunset* ★★★ (2004, Romance)			*Shakespeare in Love* ★★★ (1998, Romance-Comedy)			Joseph Fiennes.		News at 11 (N)
		-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
		213	326	15	SUN	Old Christine	The Insider (N)	*Overnight Delivery* ★★ (1996, Comedy)			Inside Jam!	The Insider (N)	Dream Car	Becker
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Engagement	Big Bang	Big Bang	(10:01) CSI: Miami (N)		News 4 at 11
		-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order "Crashers"		News
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)			Romantically	Castle "Food to Die For"		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)			Robson Arms	Law & Order "Crashers"		A News
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "The Choice" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (HDTV) (N)		(DVS)	In the Life	Business Rpt.
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
		298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news		502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
		500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
		509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (N)		As Seen on TV		Big Mac: Inside McDonald's		Biography on CNBC		Mad Money
sports		405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Cleveland Indians. From Progressive Field in Cleveland.						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Centra
		400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
		411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
		417	406	81	SC	NASCAR Smart	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV) (N)		Racing Chef	NASCAR	NASCAR	What's Deal?	Car Crazy
family		551	542	25	YTV	Survive This	Survive This	In Real Life		Survive This	That's-Weird	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
		554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
		556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety		602	567	27	W	Supernanny		How Clean	How Clean	Love It or List It		Love It or List It "Ethier" (N)		Love It-List It
		570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		My Date With...	My Date With...	MuchOnDemand		UR11
		615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Intervention "Brittany"		Intervention "Tyler" (N)		Fame and Recovery (N)		Paranormal
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Carabinieri		Carabinieri		George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
		571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Behind the Music		Family Jewels
		575	583	38	CMT	Due South		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		According-Jim	According-Jim	*Planes, Trains and Automobiles* ★★★ (1987)		
		616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		Last Chapter		Last Chapter		Misfits (N)		Survivors
		620	523	40	BVO	A Bronx Dream		*U-Carmen* ★★ (2005, Musical) Pauline Malefane, Andile Tshoni, Andiswa Kedama.						Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	Rich Bride Poor Bride		The Millionaire Matchmaker		ET Canada
		522	506	43	HIS	Dogfights "Flying Tigers"		Aftermath (HDTV)		Storm Planets (HDTV) (N)		Cities of the Underworld		Ancients-Badly
		625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham: Spark of Insanity		Daily Show
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Bang, Buck	Home to Flip	Marriage	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House/Payne	House/Payne	Law & Order: SVU		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	*Dumb-Dumber*
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Scarface* ★★★ (1983, Crime Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Steven Bauer.						Mo'Nique
		627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Path of Destruction* (2005, Science Fiction), David Keith				Stormworld
		581	566	52	MTV	My Life as Liz	After	Cribs	Teen Cribs	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II		My Life as Liz	After	MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Re-Vamped		Wipeout		Wipeout		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Prod. Parker
		603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Best Thing	At the Table	Top Chef Masters		Pitchin' In	Glutton	Best Thing
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	Wait for God	Blue Murder		Unscripted (N)	Naked	Doc "Pilot"
		621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Toopy & Binoo	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
		526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Libertyville"		Missing "The Ties That Bind"		Medium		Cold Case "Libertyville"		Waters-Crime
		300	601	301	M1	*Fakers*	(7:20) *Just Buried* (2007) Rose Byrne.			Penn & Teller	Gravity	Nurse Jackie	U.S. of Tara	Wild Things (N
		305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *View of Terror* (2003, Suspense)				*GoodFellas* ★★★★ (1990, Crime Drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta.				
		520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)		Canada's Worst Handyman (N)		Daily Planet
		637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
		605	-	-	FASH	(6) This Is ... Madonna		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Story Of Spice Girls.		1st Class Way

Proof that bike seats don't effect potency

Cycling legend Lance Armstrong has announced — via Twitter — that he'll be a father for the fifth time. It's the second child together for the seven-time Tour de France champ, 38, and girlfriend Anna Hansen, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Jessica wants to be America's First Lady

BUT SWEETY, HAIR EXTENSIONS SHOULD REALLY BE A PART OF HEALTH CARE Jessica Simpson is a singer, actress and reality star, but now she has a new goal. She wants to be Michelle Obama.

"I really do," Simpson told People magazine before the White House Correspondents' dinner in Washington, D.C., Saturday. "She's such an incredible woman, and she's with such a powerful man."

What does Simpson admire most about the First Lady? "Everything she does she exudes confidence," says the singer. "I'm really just here to celebrate her."

Simpson was just one among many celebrities who came out for the annual event and mingled at the packed pre-party.

"It's sort of like Oscar night," mused comedian Bill Maher, who joked: "It's great to mingle with America's real intellectual heavyweights. I saw the Jonas Brothers, Justin Bieber, Jessica Simpson, Ryan Seacrest — I can't wait to talk politics."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

J.Lo's ex talks new TV show

OH LOOK! IT'S A BOTTOM OF A BARREL One of Jennifer Lopez's ex-husbands is looking to reality TV to help settle his debt to the popstar, according to Page Six. Ojani Noa is looking for takers on a potential series called I Owe J.Lo in which he tries to "land menial jobs to pay off a half-million dollar court judgment that he owes to his ex-wife," a source says. In 2007, a judge ordered Noa to pay Lopez $495,000 US for attempting to publish a book about their relationship. METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JIM CARREY is expressing himself, **STEPHEN FRY** ran into a pal at the airport, **LILY ALLEN** isn't as rich as previously reported, and **SARAH SILVERMAN** is looking to invest.

@JimCarrey I have no idea what I'm going to paint. My subconscious mind will have it's way

@stephenfry On my way home. Boarding soon. Just had sweet conversation with Ozzy Osbourne — that's LAX lounges for you I suppose. Such a dear thing.

@lilyroseallen I wish one could believe what one reads in the papers. Apparently I've got 5 million quid. Yay !

@SarahKSilverman I would love to hear about your Pyrimid and Ponzi opportunities! I've heard only good things!

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Drug charges dropped

AFTER SPENDING TIME IN REHAB. MAYBE SHE COULD DRAW A MAP FOR LINDSAY A drug charge against Mackenzie Phillips was dismissed Friday after the actress successfully completed a drug diversion program.

Phillips, 50, appeared in a Los Angeles courtroom for a final hearing in the case.

The television actress pleaded guilty in October 2008 to a felony drug possession charge and agreed to enter drug treatment.

She had been arrested two months earlier by airport screeners who said they found a small amount of narcotics.

"Mackenzie deserves great credit for seizing the opportunity she was given to get clean and prove she was worthy of the dismissal of her case," her attorney Blair Berk said in a statement.

In a video posted on the celebrity website TMZ.com, Phillips is seen telling the judge the case changed her life.

Phillips had a history of drug abuse and was fired from the TV series One Day at a Time in 1982.

She claimed in a memoir last year that she had a decade-long sexual relationship with their father, pop star John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tied the knot again

THEY COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY VOWED THE FIRST TIME Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon renewed their wedding vows over the weekend at their Beverly Hills mansion, just as the plan to do every year they're married, according to the Daily Mail.

"I encourage everybody to do it. If you are happy and in love, celebrate it," Cannon says.

"Doesn't everybody do that? Don't Heidi Klum and Seal do the same thing every year? It's just something fun to celebrate. We renew our vows and exchange gifts."

The pair tied the knot two years ago.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Are the pretty people packing it in?

BUT THEY PHOTOGRAPH SO WELL TOGETHER. Halle Berry and Canadian Gabriel Aubry have ended their five-year relationship after spending months working out the financial details and custody of their two-year-old daughter with a lawyer, according to Radar Online.

"Gabriel just felt it wasn't working anymore," a source says. "When they were first together, the nine-year age difference between them didn't phase him, she was the most beautiful woman he had ever dated and he was totally in love.

"But as time went on he started feeling it more and more."

METRO WORLD NEWS

A lost little girl could lose out to the law

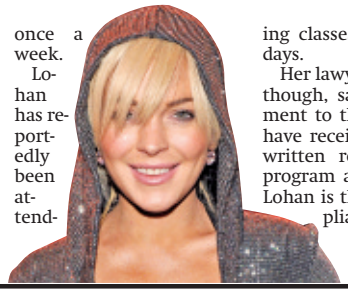
WHAT DOES ROCK BOTTOM LOOK LIKE TO HER? Lindsay Lohan has reportedly violated the terms of her probation and could face jail time, according to TMZ.

The troubled actress is on probation for a DUI but has not had the alcohol education requirement laid out by the judge, which she needs to do at least once a week.

Lohan has reportedly been attending classes once every 21 days.

Her lawyer isn't worried, though, saying in a statement to the website, "We have received no negative written report from the program and contend Ms. Lohan is therefore in compliance."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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Tuesday Variable 18°/ 10°

Wednesday Variable 23°/ 12°

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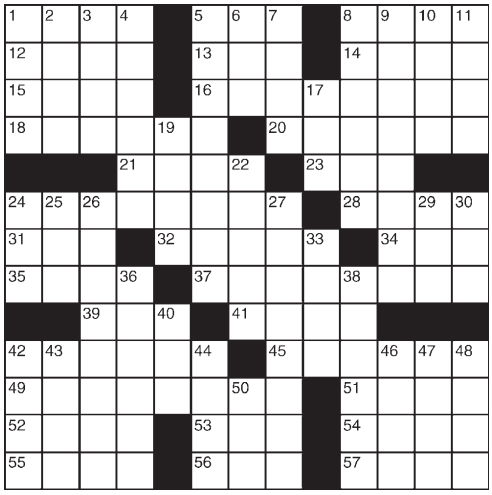

ACROSS

1 Lily variety
5 "— Pinafore"
8 Congressional party chief
12 Tale teller
13 "— -hoo!"
14 Re planes and such
15 Desertlike
16 Lawyer, perhaps
18 Superficial layer
20 Melodic
21 Rat- —
23 Columnist Landers
24 Lets the air out
28 Fish's breather
31 Neighbor of Can. and Mex.
32 Native soldier of old India
34 Watery expanse
35 Grand story
37 Triumphed over
39 Sleuth, for short
41 And others (Lat.)
42 Guru's retreat
45 Low-quality stuff
49 Unquestionable
51 "— Almighty"
52 Ostriches' kin
53 Zero
54 Stare open-mouthed
55 Cleopatra's river
56 Part of AT&T
57 Otherwise

DOWN

1 Balkan dweller
2 Green land
3 Profit
4 Major trial
5 Added water
6 One of the Stooges
7 Couch
8 In decline
9 Pleasure seeker
10 Angers
11 Perspiration outlet
17 Historic time
19 Greek H's
22 Reservation residence
24 Payable
25 Kreskin's claim
26 Loyal
27 Merchant's non-aggressive ploy
29 CSA general
30 Young fellow
33 "Okay"
36 Red shade
38 Claim
40 Has the skills
42 Mideast gulf
43 Half (Pref.)
44 Mouthwash flavor
46 Elliptical
47 Uppercase
48 Elbow counterpart
50 Cravat

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4							2
		7	5					
2		1		6	4			8
					3		2	9
		5		1		8		
9	6		8					
3			6	8		4		1
					7	9		
5							3	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	P	A		S	P	A	R	
A	R	M		H	U	G	E	
C	O	M	P	O	S	E	D	
S	P	O	O	F	S		U	M
			P	A	Y		C	O
C	R	I	E	R		F	E	W
H	I	T	S		S	A	D	
I	C	E		F	I	X		T
C	O	M	P	E	L		C	A
			L	E	I		A	R
B	R	I	O		C	O	M	P
B	A	R	T		O	R	E	O
C	H	E	Z		N	E	O	N

M	O	A	T					
A	N	T	I					
D	E	E	P					
C	O	M	P	L	Y			
L	I	U						
B	E	E	R					
T	O	A	S	T				
A	R	E	T	E	S			
C	O	M	P	R	I	S	E	
E	S	P						
D	O	T						

2	8	7	9	5	4	3	6	1
9	1	6	7	2	3	8	5	4
4	3	5	6	8	1	7	2	9
1	7	9	8	4	6	5	3	2
8	4	3	5	9	2	6	1	7
6	5	2	3	1	7	4	9	8
7	9	4	2	6	5	1	8	3
5	2	1	4	3	8	9	7	6
3	6	8	1	7	9	2	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lemony Lentil Soup

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp olive oil
3 cloves garlic, chopped coarsely
1 medium onion, chopped
1 1/3 cup red lentils, rinsed and drained
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
1 tsp ground coriander
1/2 tsp ground cumin
Juice of 1 lemon
4 wafer-thin slices of lemon

METHOD:

1. In large heavy pot over medium heat, cook garlic and onions in oil until brown, 3 to 5 minutes. Add lentils and cook, stirring, 2 minutes. Stir in broth. Simmer, covered, until lentils are almost soft, 15 to 20 minutes.
2. In dry skillet set over high heat, toast coriander and cumin until aromatic, 1 to 2 minutes, then add to soup. Add lemon juice, lemon slices, and salt and pepper to taste, and simmer soup for 5 minutes before serving.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your working routine and your wellbeing will take a turn for the better over the next few days and before you know it life will be fun again.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
By all means enjoy yourself, by all means go out with your friends, but don't let social activities take over your life.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A quarrel of some sort needs to be resolved. It may be the case that someone has taken advantage of you but just this once it might be best not to hit back.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Opportunities to get ahead in the world will come thick and fast over the next few days but don't take on too much or you could run out of steam.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
How far is too far? That is the question you most need to ponder today, and you will certainly be tempted to go over the top.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
It may frustrating that you are unable to push ahead with a plan or project that means so much to you but there is no need to fret.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Only you know what it is you really want out of life so, logically, only you can take the decisions which will make it happen.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't waste time trying to explain to other people what you are trying to do, just get on and do it and let the chips fall where they will.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Change is inevitable and there is no point wishing that things would stay just as they are – it's not going to happen and you know it.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
There is nothing you cannot do if you really put your mind to it. Do you believe that? You should do because it's true.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You won't get other people on your side if you constantly criticize what they are doing. Chill out.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You can sense that this is a special time and that you should be doing special things. What happens today will point you in the right direction.

This day in history

1494: Christopher Columbus first sights land that will be called Jamaica.
1715: "Edmund Halley's" total solar eclipse (the last one visible in London, United Kingdom for almost 900 years).
1802: Washington, D.C., is incorporated as a city.
1877: Labatt Park, the oldest continually operating baseball grounds in the world has its first game.
1937: Gone with the Wind, a novel by Margaret Mitchell, wins the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
1915: The poem In Flanders Fields is written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

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Punjabi	(905) 796-0044
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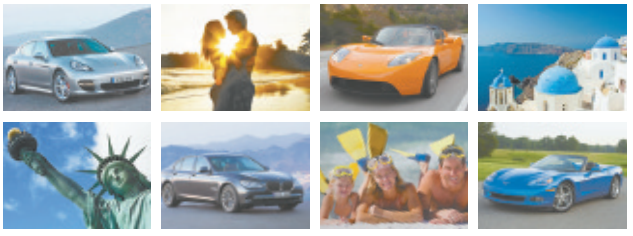

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